

Lincoln Sites

PLACES IN SPRINGFIELD & AROUND THE COUNTRY

LINCOLN HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

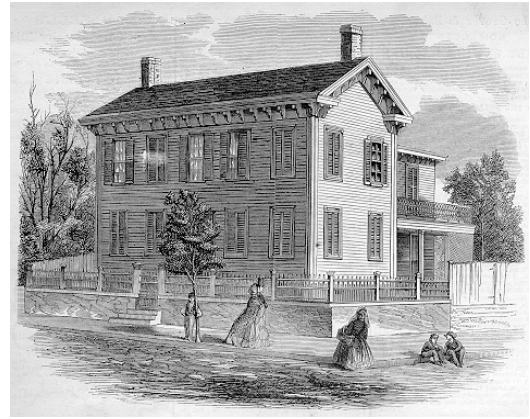
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

The house on the corner of Eighth and Jackson Streets in Springfield was the only home Abraham Lincoln ever owned. Following his marriage to Mary Ann Todd on November 4, 1842, the Lincolns began housekeeping in rooms at the Globe Tavern.

The Lincoln's first child, Robert Todd, was born at the Globe, August 1, 1843. Soon after the birth of their child the Lincolns moved to a rented three-room cottage at 214 South Fourth Street while they looked for a house to buy. In January 1844, Lincoln began the transactions to buy the Reverend Charles Dresser's Eighth Street home. In May of that year, the Lincolns completed negotiations, paying Dresser a total of \$1,200 for the house and one downtown lot and building valued at \$300.

When the Lincolns purchased the Eighth Street house, it must have represented a substantial initial investment for the recently married couple. The house was then a small story-and-a-half cottage. As Lincoln's career as both a lawyer and politician gained prominence so did his home. After a number of renovations both large and small the house became the grand two-story structure you see today.

The Lincolns left the home in 1860 for Washington, D.C. and no Lincoln ever lived in it again.



Today, Lincoln Home National Historic Site is administered by the National Park Service. The home was donated by Robert Todd Lincoln to the state of Illinois in 1887 and was administered as a state historic site until 1972. At the request of the state of Illinois it was transferred to the National Park Service. Admission to the Site remains free honoring Robert Todd Lincoln's wishes that the home be always "free of access."

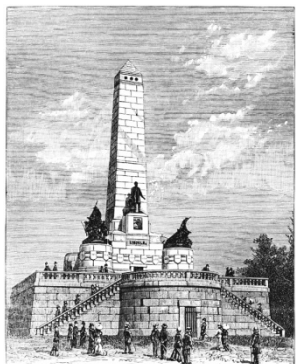
The National Park Service was able to purchase the land around the Lincoln Home and the site now consists of four square blocks with eighteen structures from Lincoln's time.

LINCOLN TOMB STATE HISTORIC SITE

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Dedicated in 1874, Lincoln Tomb is the final resting place of Abraham Lincoln, his wife Mary, and three of their four sons, Edward, William, and Thomas. The eldest son, Robert T. Lincoln, is buried in Arlington National

Cemetery. Also on the site is the public receiving vault, constructed about 1860, the scene of funeral services for Abraham Lincoln on May 4, 1865. In 1960 the Tomb was designated a National Historic Landmark and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1966.



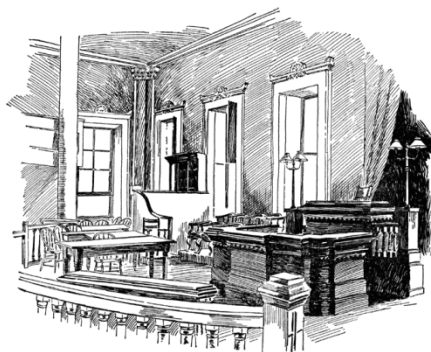
The 117-foot Tomb, designed by sculptor Larkin Mead, is constructed of brick sheathed with Quincy granite. The base is 72-feet square with large semi-circular projections on the north and south sides. Double sets of north and south stairs lead to a terrace, above which rises the obelisk. At the corners of the shaft, large pedestals serve as bases for four bronze sculptures, each with a group of figures representing one of the four Civil War services—infantry, artillery, cavalry, and navy. A taller base on the obelisk's south side holds a heroic bronze statue of Lincoln. At the Tomb entrance is a bronze reproduction of Gutzon Borglum's marble head of Lincoln, located in the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Interior rooms of the Tomb are finished in a highly polished marble trimmed with bronze. The south entrance opens into a rotunda, where two corridors lead into the burial chamber. The rotunda and corridors contain reduced-scale reproductions of important Lincoln statues as well as plaques with excerpts from Lincoln's Springfield farewell speech, the Gettysburg Address, and his Second Inaugural Address. Lincoln's remains rest in a concrete vault ten feet below the marble floor of the burial chamber. A massive marble cenotaph marking the gravesite is flanked by the Presidential flag and flags of the states in which the Lincoln family resided. Crypts in the chamber's south wall hold the remains of Lincoln's wife and three of their sons.

OLD STATE CAPITOL STATE HISTORIC SITE

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

The Old State Capitol is Illinois' fifth statehouse, the first to be located in Springfield. The building served as the seat of state government and a center of Illinois political life from 1839 to 1876. During the dramatic years leading to the Civil War, the building had an important role in the political struggle between Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln visited the building frequently as both a lawyer and a politician, serving in the building during his last term in the Illinois House of Representatives and delivering the famous 1858 "House Divided" speech in Representatives Hall, and using the governor's rooms as a headquarters during the 1860 presidential campaign. The building was the scene of the assassinated President's final laying-in-state on May 3-4, 1865.



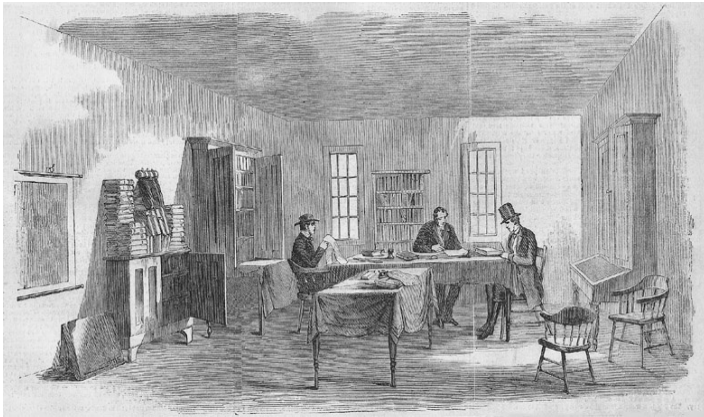
The Greek Revival-style building was completely restored in the 1960s. The first floor is composed of a central hall flanked by rooms interpreting government offices, two libraries, and the supreme courtroom. A complex of first-floor rooms also provides an audiovisual theatre and staff offices. Recreated second-floor spaces include a magnificent rotunda, legislative chambers, and smaller offices and meeting rooms. The building is located in the center of a large landscaped yard surrounded by a replica of the original 1850s ornamental iron fence. In 1961 the

building was designated a National Historic Landmark and in 1966 was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

LINCOLN-HERNDON LAW OFFICES STATE HISTORIC SITE

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

The Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices are within the only remaining building in which Abraham Lincoln maintained a law office. The site consists of the surviving portion of a three-story brick commercial block constructed in 1840-41. Exterior details reflect the then-popular Greek Revival architectural style. Though designed as a commercial structure, portions of the building were rented for offices and other purposes. Lincoln practiced law in the building from 1843 to about 1852. During his 1847-1849 tenure as a United States Congressman, partner William H. Herndon maintained the practice. In 1978 the building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a part of the Central Springfield Historic District.



The “restored” building’s first-floor visitor center consists of an exhibit gallery and audiovisual theater, along with a room interpreted as an 1840s post office facility. On the second floor are rooms representing those used by the federal court, and on the third floor a “common room” and three lawyers’ offices. Two of the offices were used by Lincoln and his partners, prominent local attorneys Herndon and Stephen T. Logan. The recreated offices are notable for the plainness and disorder that were remembered by Lincoln associates.

GREAT WESTERN DEPOT

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Early on the morning of February 11, 1861, Abraham Lincoln went to the Great Western Depot to begin his inaugural journey to Washington D.C. Lincoln and his eldest son, Robert, were scheduled to leave on the 8:00 AM train, while the rest of his family would follow later that day.

Today, the Great Western Depot still stands welcoming visitors who want to learn more about the man who left Springfield behind to guide the nation through the Civil War. The depot, owned and operated by *The State Journal-Register*, is located at Tenth and Monroe Streets, and staffed daily by National Park Service rangers between May and August. Inside the depot, exhibits highlight Lincoln’s life and times, his inaugural journey, and his farewell address to the people of Springfield.

VACHEL LINDSAY HOME STATE HISTORIC SITE

This site is the birthplace and long-time home of poet Nicholas Vachel Lindsay. Lindsay was internationally known in the early-twentieth century for his unique poetry, the artwork he created to illustrate the poetry, and animated performances of his work including *Abraham Lincoln Walks at Midnight*.

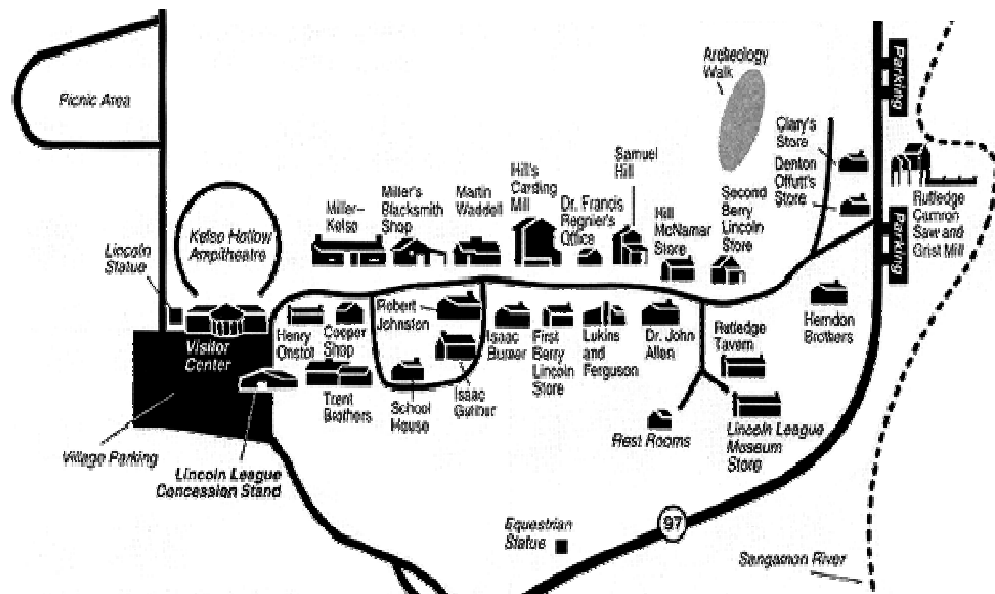
His family home fits into the story as well. Mary Lincoln's sister Ann lived in the house and current research seems to show that the Lincoln family stayed in the house the night before they left Springfield for Washington, D.C. Ann Todd Smith's husband Clark Moulton Smith was a Springfield merchant. He accompanied Mary Lincoln to New York City, in order to assist her in choosing clothes appropriate for our nation's "first lady."

LINCOLN'S NEW SALEM STATE HISTORIC SITE

PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS

Lincoln's New Salem preserves the site of New Salem village, where young Abraham Lincoln lived for six formative years, from 1831 to 1837. Platted in 1829, the town existed for about twelve years before being abandoned and left to pasture. The centerpiece of Lincoln's New Salem is the imaginative recreation of the log village. Built in the 1930s

and 1940s as a Civilian Conservation Corps program, the village features twenty-three historically furnished buildings, including several homes, stores, and tradesmen's shops, as well as a tavern, school, wool-carding mill, and a saw- and gristmill. Scattered throughout the village are log barns and other outbuildings.



LINCOLN LOG CABIN STATE HISTORIC SITE

LERNA, ILLINOIS



Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site preserves the site of the 1840s farm of Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln, father and stepmother of our 16th president. Abraham Lincoln was a lawyer living in Springfield by the time his parents moved here in 1837, but he did visit them periodically.

VANDALIA STATEHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE

VANDALIA, ILLINOIS

The Vandalia State House, the fourth Illinois statehouse, served as the capitol from 1836 until 1839 and is the oldest surviving capitol building in the state. The Vandalia State House is significant for its association with Abraham Lincoln, who served here in the House of Representatives.

OTHER ILLINOIS LINCOLN SITES

POSTVILLE COURTHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE, LINCOLN, ILLINOIS

MT. PULASKI COURTHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE, MT. PULASKI, ILLINOIS

METAMORA COURTHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE, METAMORA, ILLINOIS

BRYANT COTTAGE STATE HISTORIC SITE, BEMENT, ILLINOIS

DAVID DAVIS MANSION STATE HISTORIC SITE, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

ABRAHAM LINCOLN BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

HODGENVILLE, KENTUCKY

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace demonstrates Lincoln's humble beginnings with a symbolic birth cabin enshrined within a neo-classic Memorial Building. Lincoln was born here on the Sinking Spring Farm in 1809.

KNOB CREEK FARM

HODGENVILLE, KENTUCKY

Administered by the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, this farm is the first home that Abraham Lincoln remembered. The Lincoln family lived on 30 acres of the 228 acre Knob Creek Farm from the time he was two and a half until he was almost eight years old. They did not own the farm but leased land while trying to establish a clear title to the Sinking Spring Farm. The family left the Knob Creek Farm in 1816 moving to Spencer County, Indiana

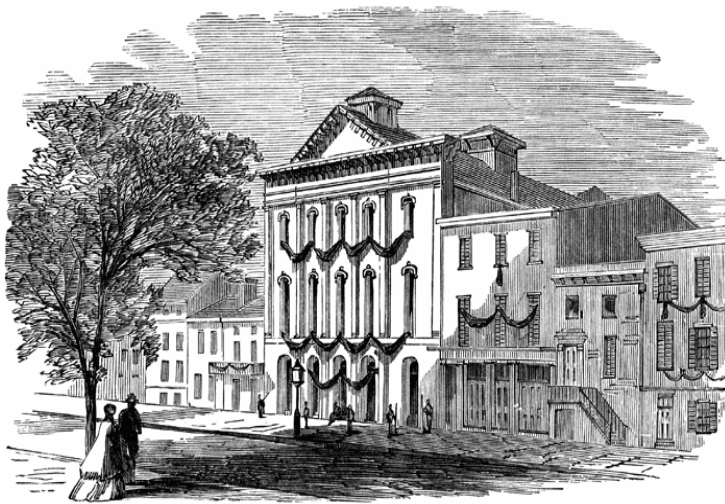
LINCOLN BOYHOOD NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

LINCOLN CITY, INDIANA

Abraham Lincoln and his family moved to Indiana in 1816 and stayed until 1830 when they moved to Illinois. During this period, Lincoln grew physically and intellectually into a man. The people he knew here and the things he experienced had a profound influence on his life. His sense of honesty, his belief in the importance of education and learning, his respect for hard work, his compassion for his fellow man, and his moral convictions about right and wrong were all born of this place and this time.

FORD'S THEATRE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

WASHINGTON, D.C.



America's transfer from Civil War to peace was made more difficult on April 14, 1865, when Abraham Lincoln was shot and killed just five days after General Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House. A well-known actor, John Wilkes Booth, desperate to aid the dying Confederacy, stepped into the president's theatre box. Booth's decision to pull the trigger altered the nation's power to reconstruct after the war. Booth escaped into the night as Abraham Lincoln was carried to the Petersen boarding house across the street. It was there that President Lincoln died early the next morning. Lincoln was the first American president to be assassinated.